

## **CASE OF MOVING TOWARDS CITY TRANSFORMATION JAKARTA 2008 - LET US BUILD**

*The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."  
(Nehemiah 2:4,5)*

Nehemiah must have liked his job. His life was secure and his future was bright in Persian Kingdom because he had an important position and he was trusted by the King. (Neh 1:1)

But the news from his brothers shocked him. Coming from Judah, they told him how Judah was in great trouble and disgrace (Neh 1:3). The city of Jerusalem which was supposed to make its people become proud was in a disgrace condition. The wall was broken down and the gates had been burned with fire. Jerusalem was a defenseless city. (From physical and spiritual views, this sounds like Jakarta).

What was Nehemiah's reaction?

His heart was torn, sad. His concern towards Judah almost destroyed his position. He could not hide his sadness, therefore when he served the King as usual every day, the King could read his sadness from his face. The King even knew that Nehemiah's sadness was deeper than what people could see from his face. (Neh 2:2). Sadness is not allowed when we see the King. (Esther 4:2)

Nehemiah was surprised when the King asked him. Maybe he was confused how to answer the King's question. But his heart could not be separated from his city. Therefore in a dangerous situation like this, he still poured out his heart to the King. Nehemiah 2:3 - but I said to the king, *"May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"*

Nehemiah never guessed the King's answer. He was not angry; He even asked Nehemiah what he wanted. (Neh 2:4) Nehemiah quickly prayed to God in Heaven to get His blessing. (Neh 2:4). From the Heaven, Nehemiah received a firm answer, so he could bravely tell the King, *"If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."*

God's grace did not stop there. God intervened by changing King Artaxerxes' heart so he gave his blessing to Nehemiah. (Neh 2:6). In the next verses, the King even opened the way for Nehemiah's journey. Nehemiah's effort to rebuild the city was not without challenges. But through this project, Nehemiah experienced God's hand and he had new experiences with God.

Jakarta 2008 is your project and my project. There are many works to do ahead of us. But, as Nehemiah, you and I are invited to come to have new experience with Him. We will see Him make the path in front of us become smooth for us for His glory.

Let us build together...

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